

Statewide Combined Deer Harvest

There were 50,596 resident deer licenses (plus unlimited licenses) available in 2017 and 95,329 were issued. Nonresidents had 2,361 licenses (plus unlimited licenses) available and 8,059 were issued. Statewide, there were a total of 103,388 licenses sold that represented a total of 117,030 tags, an increase in 2,208 licenses but a decrease of 5,416 tags from 2016. Triple-tag licenses were eliminated again after offering them for the East River season in 2016. A total of 68,101 individual hunters were issued deer licenses in 2017, up slightly from 67,615 in 2016.

Random samplings were taken for each unit within each season unless the numbers of hunters were low enough that all were sampled to satisfy the statistical analyses. Response rates ranged from 69% for Landowner East River Deer to 89% for Custer State Park.

The projected statewide deer harvest was 51,932, a 1.1% decrease from 2016. This estimate included 27,859 whitetail bucks, 16,768 whitetail does, 5,920 mule bucks and 1,385 mule does. A slight decrease in overall harvest of 1,095 deer with a moderate decrease in the number of tags issued resulted in a 1% increase in harvest success from 2016.

A significant decrease in white-tailed doe harvest accounted for the decrease in overall harvest from 2016. Both mule buck and doe harvest estimates increased from 2016 by 619 and 190 respectively. Mule deer made up approximately 14% of the total harvest.

The 2017 overall statewide harvest success increased to 44% from 43% in 2016. Harvest success ranged from 26% for Archery to 82% for West River Special Buck.

Respondents reported hunting an average of 5.24 days per hunter, which projects to a statewide total of 541,555 recreation days in 2016. An increase in days hunted combined with a slight increase in license sales resulted in an increase of approximately 21,300 total days of recreation from 2016.

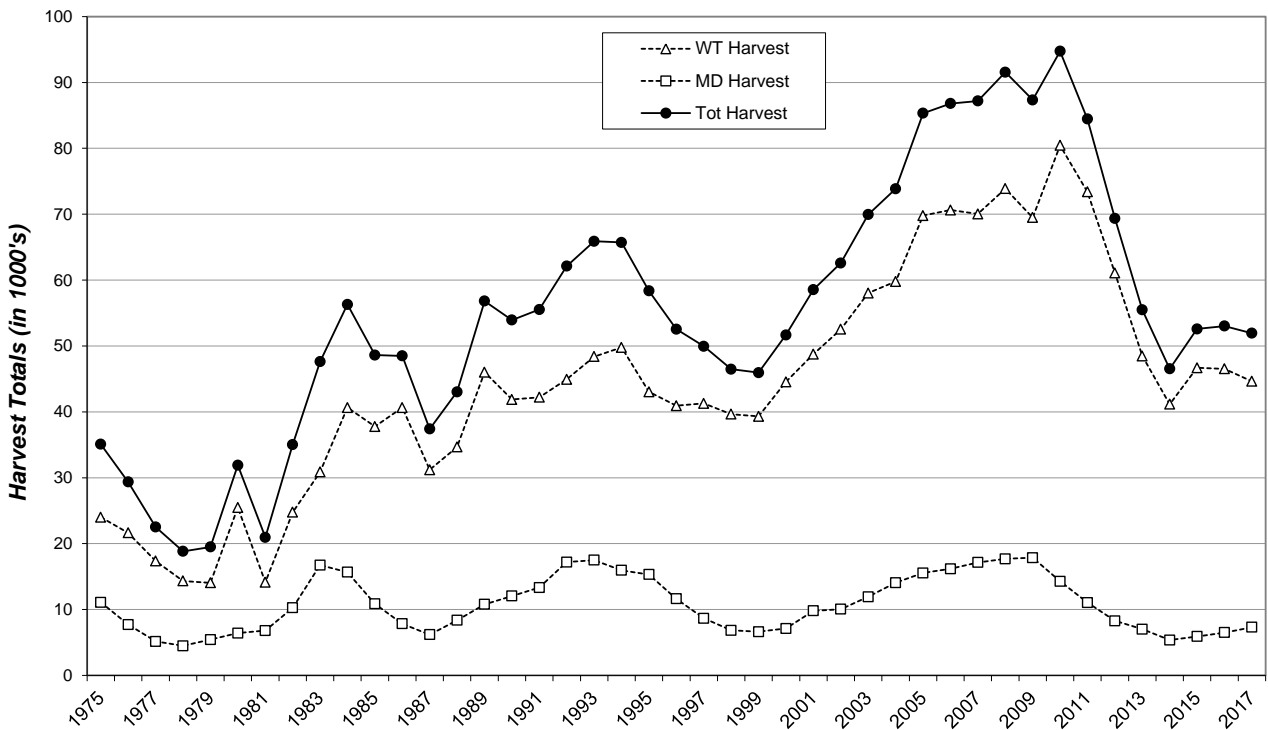
Average hunter satisfaction values (1=very dissatisfied to 7=very satisfied) varied between seasons and ranged from 4.86 for East River to 5.94 for West River Special Buck.

2017 Statewide Deer Harvest Projection Summary

last revised: 11 May 2018

SOUTH DAKOTA	Season	Archery	Youth Antlerless	Mentored Youth	Muzzleloader	Landowner Own Land Antlerless	West River	West River Landowner Own Land	West River Special Buck Unit	East River	East River Landowner Own Land	East River Special Buck Unit	Sand Lake NWR	Lacreek NWR	Waubay NWR	Black Hills	Custer State Park	Grand Totals
Harvest Statistic																		
Licenses/Tags													Refuges					
Resident Licenses																		
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	18,660	Unlimited	500	26,375	Unlimited	502	150	25	20	4,300	64	50,596
Sold		25,512	4,706	4,069	3,304	349	18,319	2,490	501	25,406	5,596	499	150	26	19	4,319	64	95,329
Resident Tags																		
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	21,980	Unlimited	500	31,625	Unlimited	502	150	25	20	4,300	64	59,166
Sold		25,512	4,706	4,069	3,304	349	21,541	4,015	501	30,006	9,051	499	150	26	19	4,319	64	108,131
Nonresident Licenses																		
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	N/A	Unlimited	N/A	1,497	N/A	500	Leftovers	N/A	N/A	15	3	2	344	N/A	2,361
Sold		3,800	619	N/A	128	N/A	1,823	N/A	499	830	N/A	N/A	15	0	2	343	N/A	8,059
Nonresident Tags																		
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	N/A	Unlimited	N/A	1,763	N/A	500	Leftovers	N/A	N/A	15	3	2	344	N/A	2,627
Sold		3,800	619	N/A	128	N/A	2,180	N/A	499	1,313	N/A	N/A	15	0	2	343	N/A	8,899
Total Licenses																		
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	20,157	Unlimited	1,000	26,375	Unlimited	502	165	28	22	4,644	64	52,957
Sold		29,312	5,325	4,069	3,432	349	20,142	2,490	1,000	26,236	5,596	499	165	26	21	4,662	64	103,388
Total Tags																		
Available		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	23,743	Unlimited	1,000	31,625	Unlimited	502	165	28	22	4,644	64	61,793
Sold		29,312	5,325	4,069	3,432	349	23,721	4,015	1,000	31,319	9,051	499	165	26	21	4,662	64	117,030
Hunters																		
		23,009	5,325	4,069	3,358	282	19,213	2,490	1,000	25,167	5,596	499	165	26	21	4,662	64	68,101
Recreation																		
Average Days Hunted		10.94	4.17	3.78	4.39	3.59	3.20	3.84	3.47	4.19	4.47	5.11	2.72	2.73	2.22	4.39	3.50	5.24
Total Days Hunted		251,820	22,227	15,389	14,758	4,236	61,393	9,559	3,472	109,861	25,025	2,549	449	71	47	20,476	224	541,555
Mean Satisfaction Score		5.24	5.65	5.83	5.10	5.10	5.05	5.21	5.94	4.86	4.99	5.16	4.96	5.18	5.44	5.76	5.70	
Harvest																		
White-tailed Deer																		
Bucks		4,751	292	230	263	9	6,896	756	324	9,143	2,224	268	36	11	10	2,616	30	27,859
Does		1,774	2,072	1,567	866	158	2,799	424	1	5,484	956	6	15	1	3	630	12	16,768
Total		6,525	2,364	1,797	1,129	167	9,695	1,180	326	14,627	3,180	274	51	12	13	3,246	41	44,627
Mule Deer																		
Bucks		961	35	31	118	0	3,373	522	489	195	95	22	0	0	0	79	0	5,920
Does		136	426	319	4	6	212	183	4	57	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,385
Total		1,097	461	350	121	6	3,585	706	492	252	134	22	0	0	0	79	0	7,305
Total Deer Harvest																		
Bucks		5,712	326	261	381	9	10,269	1,279	813	9,338	2,320	291	36	11	10	2,695	30	33,779
Does		1,910	2,498	1,886	870	164	3,011	607	5	5,542	994	6	15	1	3	630	12	18,153
Total		7,622	2,825	2,147	1,251	173	13,280	1,886	818	14,879	3,314	297	51	12	13	3,325	41	51,932
Success		26%	53%	53%	36%	49%	56%	47%	82%	48%	37%	59%	31%	46%	61%	71%	65%	44%

South Dakota Combined Deer Harvest 1975-2017



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